

Maine Transportation Conference: Transportation is Connections

December 4, 2025



mcec.umaine.edu

Pew Research Center



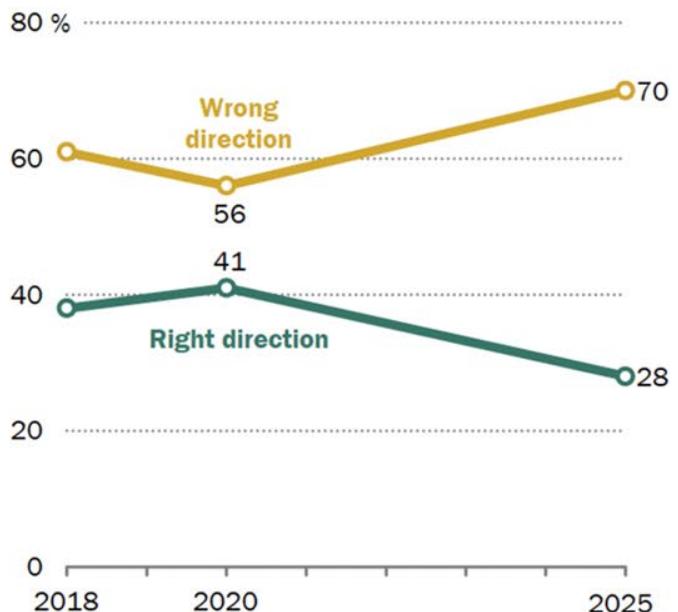
SHORT READS | OCTOBER 15, 2025

SHARE

Growing share of Americans say the U.S. higher education system is headed in the wrong direction

7 in 10 Americans now say U.S. higher education is going in wrong direction

% saying the higher education system in the U.S. is generally going in the ...



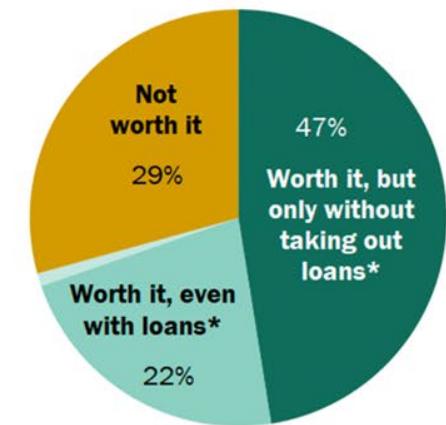
Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 22-28, 2025.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Only 22% of U.S. adults say the cost of college is worth it even if someone has to take out loans

% saying the cost of getting a four-year college degree today is ...



* Refer to topline for full question wording.

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer is shown but not labeled.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2023

"Is College Worth It?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



“

We cannot let our nostalgia for better days stop our search for alternative funding models.”

The international journal of science / 25 September 2025

nature

Universities are in the eye of a storm: they must innovate to survive

REIMAGINING THE UNIVERSITY



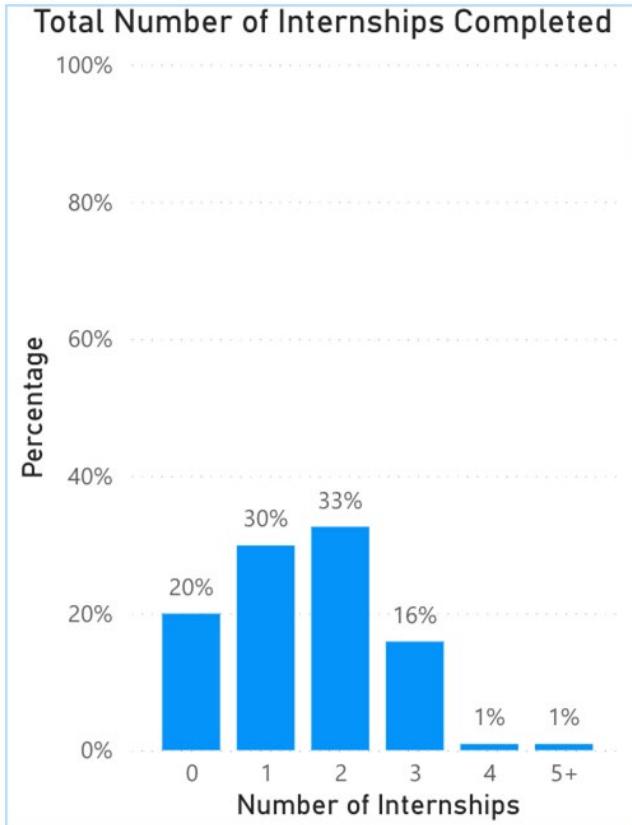
Teamwork and hands-on learning underpins NMITE's pedagogy ethos.

A new teaching model

NMITE's accelerated master's programme is focused on learning by doing, with a curriculum co-designed with industry to prioritize real-world challenges.

Higher education across the world is facing a panoply of challenges that threaten to undermine or drastically alter its future. In the United States, universities are grappling with huge cuts to federal funding and pressure from the government to change their teaching and research agendas. In the United Kingdom, financial pressures are pushing some institutions to the brink of bankruptcy. Universities elsewhere, including in Germany and the Netherlands, face budget and research cuts. And in Japan and South Korea, private institutions are shutting their doors as ageing populations lead to declining numbers of students.

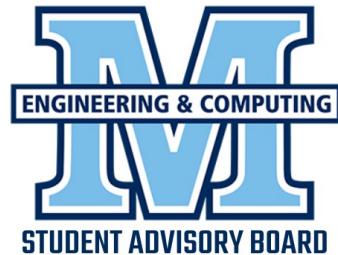
MCEC Internship Data



% with Internship

Overall: 80%





Major Committee(s)

- Curriculum Review
- Concentration(s)
- Class Engagement
- Lab(s)
- Standard Among Program(s)

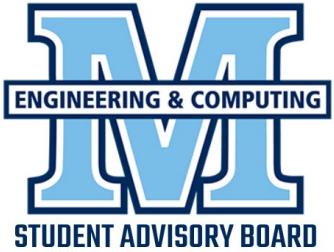
Career & Industry Committee

- Industry Relations
- Internships/ Co-Ops/ Full-time
- Job Fair
- Open House
- Research to Industry



FUTURE GOALS

- Increase Student Outreach
- Improve Major Representation on Board
- Work closely with:
 - Career center
 - Department Chair(s)
 - Faculty Member(s)
- Collect and Analyze Feedback
- Finalize the End-of-Semester Report to Dean Govanna



Pre - Engineering

- Program in Orono is now housed in MCEC
- Program at Machias
 - building on the Maine Engineering Pathways Program
 - Supported by a future faculty fellow
 - Pilot as potential model across the system
- Priority for this year is to develop paths from pre-engineering at both campuses to various majors

Growth in Pre-Engineering:

- 16% increase in total undergrad students
- 42% increase in new first year students





**US News & World Report - Improved
ranking by 10 points in Graduate
Engineering Programs!**



We've welcomed more than 1,200 Maine students from K-12 for STEM exploration days!



GEM Building: On Time & On Budget!

The image shows a modern, open-plan office space. In the foreground, there are several round wooden tables with black metal bases, each surrounded by four grey upholstered stools with chrome legs. To the left, a long grey sofa is positioned against a wall with a window. In the center, there is a large, modular white partition system with black trim, containing two black office chairs on wheels. To the right, there is a wooden door with a window and an "EXIT" sign above it. A blue sofa is visible in the background. The ceiling is white with a grid of fluorescent lights.

**Student Success and Advising Center is
Now Complete!**



Student Enrollment and Retention

Student Enrollment

Total Enrollment

Last Year:

MCEC -0.3%

UMaine -2%

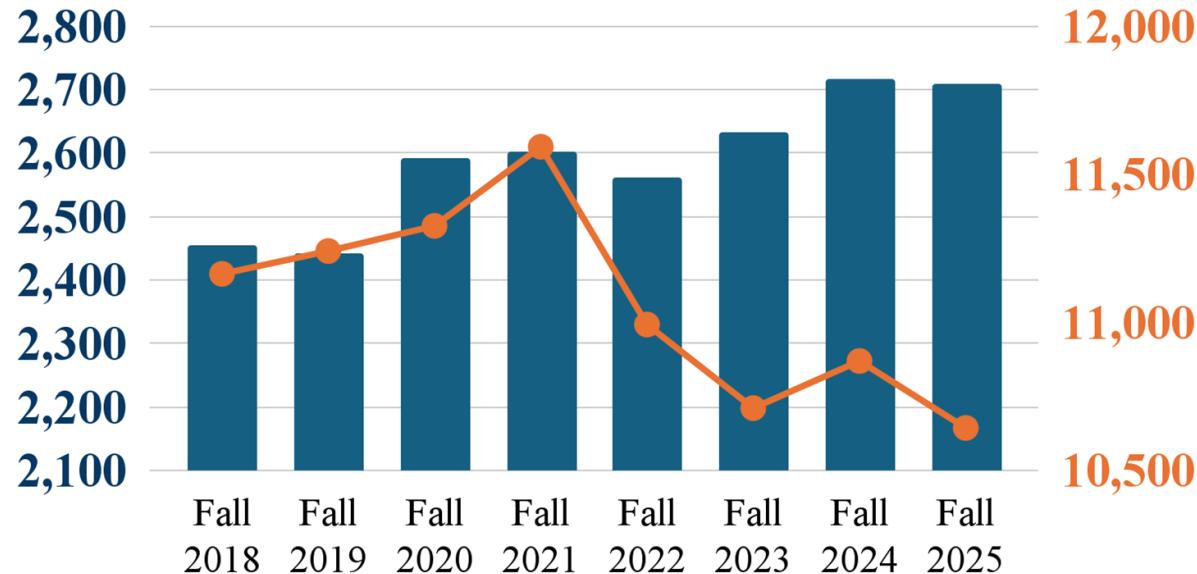
2018-2025:

MCEC +10%

UMaine -5%

Total Enrollment by Headcount

■ MCEC ● UMaine



Data source: OIRA UMaine Academic Affairs Dashboard

Student Enrollment

Undergraduate Enrollment

Last Year:

MCEC +0.2%

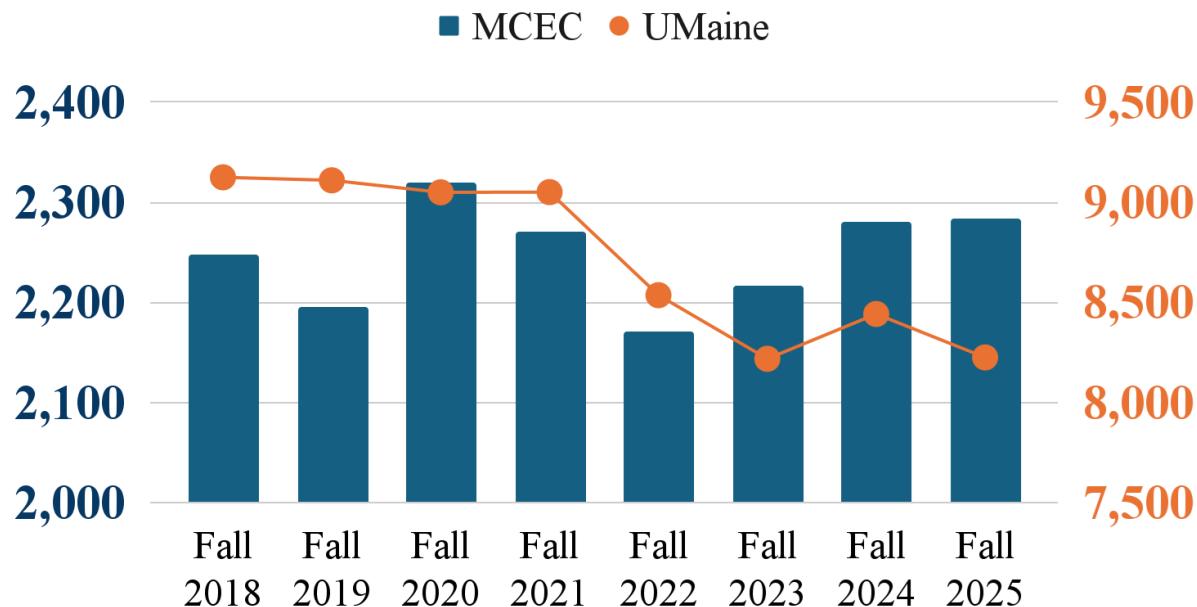
UMaine -3%

2018-2025:

MCEC +2%

UMaine -10%

Undergraduate Enrollment by Headcount



Data source: OIRA UMaine Academic Affairs Dashboard

Student Enrollment

Graduate Enrollment

Last Year:

MCEC -3%

UMaine -0.4%

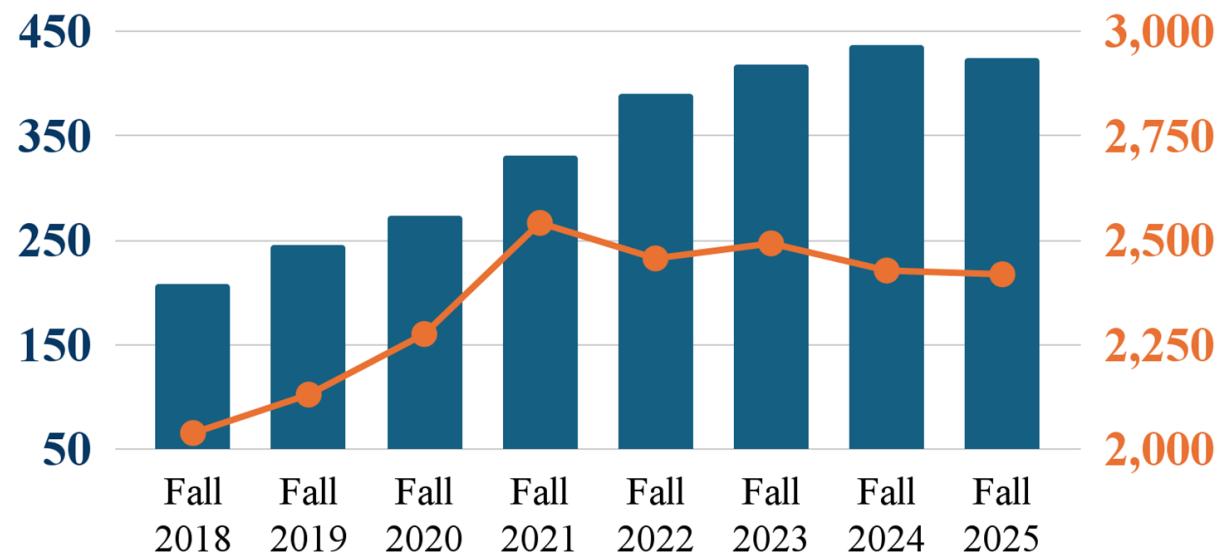
2018-2025:

MCEC +104%

UMaine +19%

Graduate Enrollment by Headcount

■ MCEC ■ UMaine



Data source: OIRA UMaine Academic Affairs Dashboard

Student Enrollment

PhD Enrollment

Last Year:

MCEC +11%

UMaine +6%

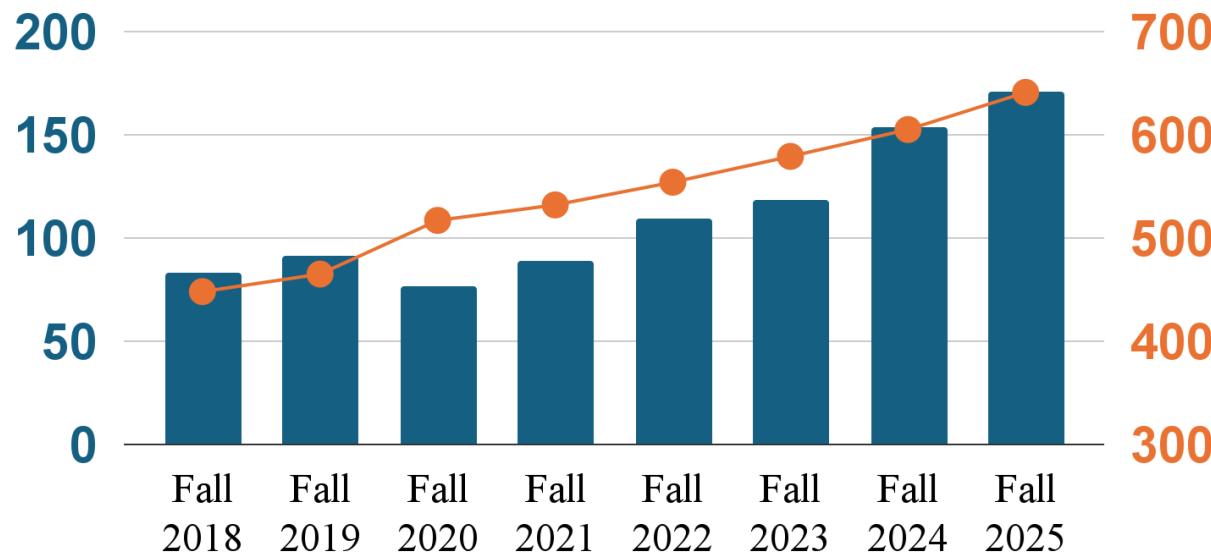
2018-2025:

MCEC +106%

UMaine +43%

PhD Enrollment by Headcount

■ MCEC ● UMaine



Data source: OIRA UMaine Academic Affairs Dashboard

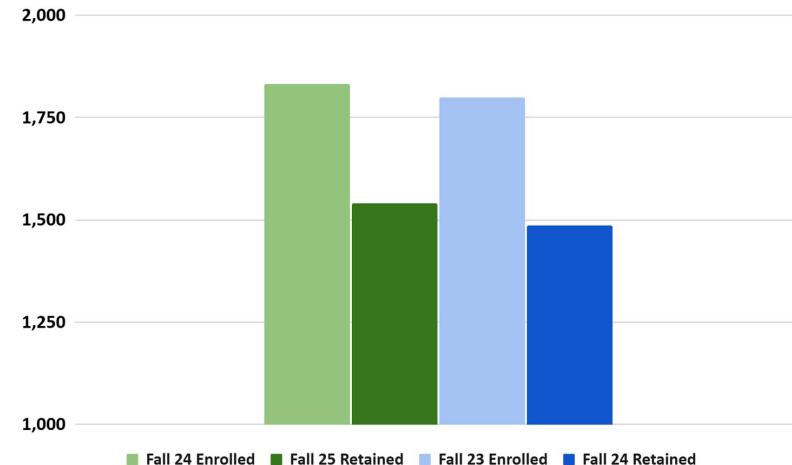
UG Fall - to - Fall Retention

- as of October 15, 2025

| Fall Class Level | Fall 24 Enrolled | Fall 25 Retained | Retention Rate 25 | Fall 23 Enrolled | Fall 24 Retained | Retention Rate 24 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | ▼ | | | | | |
| Undergraduate | 1,833 | 1,541 | 84% | 1,799 | 1,487 | 83% |
| New FYR | 534 | 443 | 83% | 478 | 403 | 84% |
| Junior | 386 | 355 | 92% | 407 | 378 | 93% |
| Sophomore | 376 | 329 | 88% | 358 | 307 | 86% |
| Senior | 295 | 240 | 81% | 290 | 232 | 80% |
| New Transfer | 161 | 123 | 76% | 161 | 122 | 76% |
| Certificate | 50 | 34 | 68% | 51 | 17 | 33% |
| Continuing FYR | 31 | 17 | 55% | 54 | 28 | 52% |

84%
Undergraduate Retention 25

83%
Undergraduate Retention 24



The Fall-to-Fall undergraduate retention has increased from 83% to 84%



Boardman Hall Modernization

Boardman Hall Design Process

- Opportunity to **rethink** how we operate
- A **fresh start** for building design and functionality
- The new building will be an **evolution**, not a carbon copy
- Goals
 - To become a **welcoming front door** for MCEC on the University Mall, providing opportunities for people to collect, converge, engage, and collaborate
 - To achieve a **balance** between historical preservation, modern accessibility standards, and energy efficiency
 - To establish a **legacy** that endures beyond our time





Boardman Hall Renovation

- Perkins Eastman and SMRT are the design firms**
- \$2M raised toward our \$10M goal**

Recent Activities and What's Next

Receive Feedback

- Sept Survey to all stakeholders
- Sept 22 Workshop #1 with Design Team
- Oct 21 - 22 Town Halls
- Nov 14 & 18 Office Hours

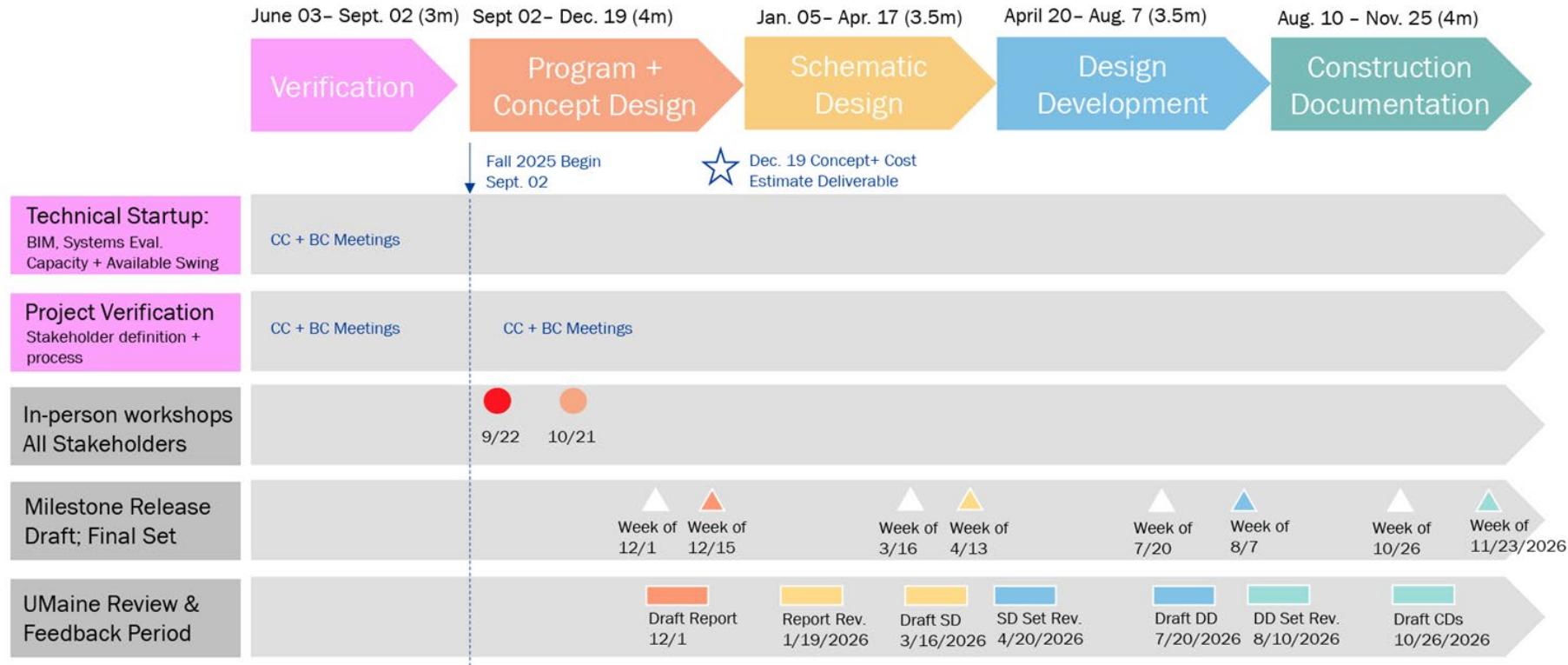
Host Workshops

- December 3rd
- Lead by design team
- Begin gaining consensus on programming
- Departmental Sessions

Activate Committees

- Student Success and Advising
- Classroom
- 1st Year Experience

Timeline



Thank You!



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Maine College of
Engineering and
Computing



mcec.umaine.edu